



CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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WAXMAN DENOUNCES NEW SAUDI PLANE DEAL

One of Israel's strongest Congressional supporters, Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles), has expressed alarm at the most recent version of the Reagan Administration plan for providing Saudi Arabia with sensitive radar equipment.

The Original AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) proposal included long-distance fuel tanks for F-15 planes and AWACS computerized radar to greatly enhance the ability of the Saudis to detect even minor movement of Israeli aircraft, tanks or troops. According to Waxman the proposal has been expanded.

"Reagan Administration officials have openly admitted that they have added to the AWACS package E3A Airborne Command Centers. When combined with AWACS, the E3A would give the Saudis the most sophisticated, complex and powerful military aircraft in the world. We would, in effect, be turning over to the Saudis all the secrets and all the benefits which have resulted from years of research and development and billions of American tax dollars.

We must remember that despite Saudi claims of purely defensive intentions, in three of the four wars in the Middle East the Saudis have joined in the fight against Israel. Even if the Saudis wished to deprive the PLO, Syria and other Arab countries from the benefits of AWACS and E3A enhanced fighter planes, it would be impossible for them to do so."

Waxman dismissed as "utter nonsense" claims by the Defense Department and the Saudis that the AWACS deal was motivated solely by the desire to enable Saudi Arabia to defend its oil fields.

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"We are talking about the best offensive military gear in the world. This equipment would penetrate Israel's borders and prevent Israel from making even the smallest scale military moves without Arab knowledge. If the Arabs had this kind of equipment in the past, Israel would long since have been destroyed. Even Israel's sudden strike missions in Entebbe and just recently in Iraq would have been impossible.

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